

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Great Witley,

Worcester.

19th June, 1944.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year 1943 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular Number 10/44.

In accordance with this Circular, certain statistical details have had to be omitted and, generally, the report has had to be abbreviated.

Section A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	52,838
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£37,038
Sum represented by a penny rate..	...	...	...	...	...	£160

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total
Illegitimate Births	6	7	13
Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			16.4
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births			31
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			11.5
Death-rate of infants under one year of age:			
All infants per 1,000 live births			37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			"
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			"
Deaths from Puerperal causes			"

Section B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. W. J. Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
 Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
 Mr. F. D. Inskip, C.S.I.B.,
 Sanitary Inspector.
 Mr. A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
 Additional Sanitary Inspector.

11. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Laboratory carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of any samples submitted from this district.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.For Infectious Diseases.

The Ambulance attached to the Worcester City Isolation Hospital is used in the removal of cases of infectious disease. This service has always proved prompt and efficient.

For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

The Martley District Ambulance Scheme operates throughout the District for the conveyance of illness, accident and maternity cases. This scheme is a voluntary one and during the year under review the following cases were attended:-

Stretcher cases	Sitting cases	Military cases
Illness - 150		
Accident - 17	125	3
Expectant mothers - 23		

Two babies were born in the ambulance.

- (c) NURSING IN THE HOME. Administered by the County Council.
- (d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. Administered by the County Council.
- (e) HOSPITALS. No public or voluntary hospitals are situated in the district. An arrangement between the Council and the City of Worcester is in operation for the removal and treatment of cases of infectious disease.

Section C.

1. (1) WATER.

No extensions to either private or public piped supplies were made during the year and no new supplies were installed. No acute shortage of water was reported and on the whole the water supplies in the Council's area may be considered to have been reasonably satisfactory.

The analysis of the piped supply at Clifton-on-Teme showed that this water was still of excellent quality.

26 samples of well water, affecting 32 dwellings, were examined; of these 18 were found to be of good quality and certified as fit for drinking by the County Analyst. After treatment to the wells had been carried out, 6 of the unsatisfactory samples were re-inspected and were then found to be fit for drinking purposes.

(11) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensions or improvements were carried out to the sewage disposal plants in the district; the treatment of the sewage at these plants was found to be satisfactory.

The necessity for a sewerage scheme for the parish of Rushwick is again stressed in the attached report by the Sanitary Inspectors.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. No action taken.

3. (1) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Since the outbreak of war the scheme for the collection of refuse in the area has had to be discontinued owing to shortage of labour. A scheme for the collection of salvage has, however, been carried out.

(11) SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE AREA.

A report by the Sanitary Inspectors is attached.

(111) SHOPS.

There are no large shops in the area and very few which employ assistants.

The conditions found in the shops inspected were satisfactory.

(1V) SMOKE ABATEMENT. None.

(V) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. None in the area.

(VI) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No cases of infestation were notified during the year under review.

4. SCHOOLS. The sanitary conditions of the schools on the whole were satisfactory and the health of the scholars generally good.

There was no deficiency of water at the schools.

SCHOOL CLOSURES. No school was closed by my order during the year.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) MILK SUPPLIES. As in previous years the supervision and sampling of Accredited and Tuberculin tested milk was carried out by the County Council; visits were made by the officers of this Council regarding the structural conditions of farms producing this type of milk and these buildings were found to be kept in a good state of repair and suitable for the production of these grades of milk.

An effort was made by the Sanitary Inspectors to inspect as many farms and dairies producing undesignated milk as their time would allow. Several applications for licences were made by farmers who produce only small quantities of milk, and, owing to the general milk situation, efforts were made to register all producers whose methods were satisfactory even if the premises did not comply entirely with the regulations. These producers were visited at intervals to see that cleanliness in production was maintained.

All complaints received from the Food Executive Officer regarding unsatisfactory milk supplies were investigated; in many cases samples were taken, and in all cases advice was given both to the farmers and the plaintiff regarding the production and storage of milk.

- (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. No regular slaughtering of animals for human consumption was carried out in the area; inspections were made of pigs killed under licence for householders and in three cases parts of these animals were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.

Several complaints were received from shop-keepers regarding the condition of tinned goods received by them and, where these complaints were found to be correct, the food was condemned.

- (c) ADULTERATION etc. Administered by the County Council.

- (d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. This is carried out at the County Council Laboratory.

- (e) NUTRITION. No steps were taken for instruction.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCABIES. To combat the growing incidence of scabies the Council decided to open an out-patient Clinic for an experimental period of six months; the Clinic was opened on 24th August, 1942 and in my opinion has proved beneficial. With the co-operation of the Public Assistance Department of the County Council two rooms in the Public Assistance Institution at Martley were utilized for the purpose and, as these rooms were provided with a bath and hot and cold water, they were suitable, if not ideal, for this purpose. A part-time female attendant was employed to carry out the treatment of women and children and, in the absence of a suitable male attendant, the treatment of men was supervised by the Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Up to 31st December, 1943, the following cases had been dealt with:-

<u>Adults</u>	7 male	6 female
<u>Children</u>	100.	

Cases cured by 1 treatment	-	16
" " " 2 treatments	-	58
" " " 3 " "	-	19

Number re-infected after treatment - 13

The treatment carried out consisted of a hot bath, with soft soap, followed by a painting of the whole body with an emulsion of benzyl benzoate. In every case a visit was paid to the home and advice given in the prevention and eradication of the infection.

There was no outbreak of disease amongst the Hop-pickers who came into the district. Only one case of diphtheria was notified but there were a few cases of measles.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Each Council School in the Area was visited twice for this purpose, and 229 children thus immunised. In addition 10 children were immunised at my Surgery at Great Witley, making a total of 1285 children immunised in three years. The success of the Immunisation Campaign may be judged from the fact that no case of Diphtheria in a school child of the area has been notified during 1942 and 1943.

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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Diseases.	Under one year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total cases noti- fied.	Cases admit- ted to Hosp.	Total Deaths.
1. Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever.	-	1	-	1	-	14	6	2	-	1	1	-	26	10	-
3. Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
4. Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
6. Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	9	-	3
7. Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
8. Encephalitis) Lethargica)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles.	5	2	4	5	7	46	14	4	15	3	3	-	108	-	-
10. Whooping Cough	3	2	5	4	7	14	3	-	1	1	1	-	41	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1943

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	2	-	1	2	-	-	2	-
5	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
15	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	4	3	5	3	1	2	-

W. J. Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Great Witley,
Worcester.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

for the year ended December 31st, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

We have pleasure in laying before you our Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

In accordance with circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health we have only dealt briefly with subjects of current interest and have omitted the usual statistical details; records are being preserved so that, if required, a general report covering the war-time period can be made at a later date.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year and, in all, 27 cases were notified to us, 25 cases being scarlet fever and 2 diphtheria.

Eleven cases were removed to hospital for isolation, 2 cases being removed privately without cost to the Council.

In practically every case disinfection was carried out after removal or after the recovery of the patient and, in addition, disinfection has been carried out after deaths from tuberculosis and cancer.

HOUSING.

Provision of new houses by Private enterprise.

The only dwelling provided in this manner was by the conversion of out-buildings into a small bungalow.

Housing Inspection.

Inspections were carried out to several cottages and in 32 cases general repairs were carried out; some of these repairs were of an extensive nature and all were necessary from a sanitary point of view.

In twelve cases these repairs were executed after notices had been served on the owner by the Council.

Inspections were made of cottages which had been condemned but which had been licensed by the Council for habitation by people evacuated from other districts. It has been our endeavour to maintain these cottages in the best possible condition having regard to the fact that they are unsuitable for regular habitation.

A general inspection of all unoccupied houses in the district was made with a view to their being used to relieve the housing situation.

DRAINAGE.

The present condition of the house drainage systems at Rushwick is most unsatisfactory, complaints being made by many householders at regular intervals of the overflowing and insanitary state of the cesspools. As in previous years, the Council have attempted to render assistance to the householders in this parish by emptying cesspools with a cesspool emptier hired from the Worcester Corporation; this method is very unsatisfactory however, as the emptier can only be obtained for limited periods and also it is not new and often breaks down.

We wish to emphasise strongly the need for carrying out the proposed sewerage scheme for Rushwick, which was postponed at the outbreak of war, as the conditions will become more grave with the passage of time. From a public health point-of-view this work is essential and should be carried out immediately.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Improvements to drainage systems were carried out at 34 houses, 7 of these being new installations with septic tanks and filters.

WATER SUPPLIES.

26 samples of water from sources supplying 32 dwellings were taken during the year, of these 18 were found to be of good quality and were certified by the analyst as being fit for drinking; in 6 cases, after the wells had been cleansed and repaired, repeat samples were taken and the water was found to be in a satisfactory condition.

During the year no shortage of water was reported from private supplies but during the months of October and November the spring providing the source of the Council's piped supply to the village of Clifton-on-Teme decreased in volume and caused some anxiety. Generally speaking, however, the supply of water for domestic consumption may be considered to have been reasonably satisfactory.

In July 1942 alterations to the pumping plant at the Clifton-on-Teme waterworks were carried out, a new 10 h.p. engine being installed and the pump being reconditioned, and we are pleased to report that a great improvement in the supply has been effected. By the installation of this engine the fuel costs have been reduced considerably and the maintenance charges rendered proportionate.

The state of the rising and service mains is a cause of some anxiety to us and, during the year, several broken pipes have had to be replaced. These mains were laid about 40 years ago and require replacing at the earliest possible moment if the supply is to be maintained in a satisfactory manner.

In April 1943 a meter was installed in the rising main as previously no check on the quantity of water raised could be made and the efficiency of the engine and pump could not be calculated. The quantity of water raised between May 1st and December 31st 1943, as registered by the meter, was 1,325,900 gallons and it is estimated that 1,969,400 gallons were raised during the year under review. The pumping hours for the year were 846.

From August onwards the source of this supply, a spring, fell consistently, reaching its minimum flow (313 gallons per hour) on December 7th; this necessitated pumping at shorter intervals owing to the capacity of the pump being much greater than the flow of the spring. No shortage occurred in the village during this period and a constant supply of water was available.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLIES.

During the year the following licences for designated milk were issued by the County Council to producers in this district:-

Accredited - Producers 15
Producers with bottling licences 3

Tuberculin Tested - Producers 3
Producers with bottling licences 1

Inspections were made of the premises producing designated milk and a good standard of repair and cleanliness was found. A very small number of unsatisfactory samples of designated milk were reported by the County Council.

Many farms producing undesignated milk were visited during the year but those farms which were known to be the least satisfactory, and from which milk was retailed locally, were given the most attention. Difficulty was experienced, owing to the shortage of labour in enforcing orders for the repair and cleansing of several sheds, but, on the whole, the standard of milk production in the district may be considered satisfactory under present conditions.

3 cow-sheds were completely re-modelled under our supervision; on 2 farms new dairies were provided and the dairies and drainage of several farms were improved and re-modelled.

HOP-PICKING.

Many inspections were made of the accommodation provided for the hop-pickers on the various farms, and, having regard to the labour shortage experienced by the majority of the hop-growers, the standard of cleanliness was satisfactory.

One serious infringement of the Council's byelaws was found, new barracks without proper amenities having been erected without the necessary notice having been given; a warning was given to the grower concerned who has since promised to alter the premises to comply with the byelaws before the next hop-picking season commences.

An inspection of several barracks was made by Dr. Brunyate of the Ministry of Health who expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which the quarters were being maintained.

As in 1942 the County Medical Officer arranged for a Mobile Gas Decontamination Unit to visit the district; the purposes of this visit were, firstly to provide bathing facilities for children, and secondly to provide opportunities for the personnel of the unit to gain experience in its use. In 1942 baths were given to 380 children and in 1943 to 443 children and we should like to record our thanks to the personnel of this unit for their help in providing a much needed service.

The arrangements made by the hop-growers for the nursing of the hop-pickers do not appear to us to be adequate and a recommendation was made to the Council that these arrangements should be co-ordinated and that a scheme in which adequate facilities are provided for every farm should be operated throughout the district. We should, however, like to express our thanks to the Nurses, the Salvation Army, and to the Catholic Mission for their work in nursing the hop-pickers, which is of great assistance in maintaining hygienic conditions in the barracks. It is not the quality of the nursing of which we complain but rather the lack of co-ordination and, in some cases, the absence of any proper nursing facilities.

HARVEST CAMPS.

During the harvest season 6 camps were set up to accommodate voluntary labour on the farms and these were inspected regularly. We are pleased to report that, in every case, hygienic conditions were found, and that the farmers spared no effort in providing clean and comfortable conditions for their campers.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS.

The number of people visiting these camps was lower than in pre-war days but a regular flow of visitors was experienced during the summer months. The usual inspections of these camps were made and it was found that conditions, on the whole, were satisfactory.

No new camps were started but it was found that, in some cases, wooden bungalows erected for holiday use were being inhabited during the greater part of the year by people who live in adjoining urban areas. There are only a few cases of this kind and the questions of water supplies and refuse disposal were easily overcome.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

FREDK. D. INSKIP,

A. L. PRATT.

19th June, 1944.
Public Health Department,
36, The Tything,
Worcester.



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Great Witley,

Worcester.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year 1944 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular Number 49/45.

In accordance with this Circular, certain statistical details have had to be omitted and, generally, the report has had to be abbreviated.

Section A.STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	52,838
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	11,640
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Book						3,223
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£36,779
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£153

There are 27 Parishes in the District and the chief industry is Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.BIRTHS.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	) Legitimate	185	100	85
	) Illegitimate	22	13	9

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - 17.78

Still Births	9	5	4
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Still Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - 41.6

DEATHS (all ages)	131	64	67
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Death rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - 11.25

Death rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	...	...	...	33.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	37.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	23
" " measles " "	...	...	...	Nil
" " whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1
" " Puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. W. J. Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. F. D. Inskip, C.S.I.B.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

11. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Laboratory carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of any samples submitted from this district.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Diseases.

The Ambulance attached to the Worcester City Isolation Hospital is used in the removal of cases of infectious disease. This service has always proved prompt and efficient.

For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

The Martley District Ambulance Scheme operates throughout the District for the conveyance of illness, accident and maternity cases. This scheme is a voluntary one and during the year under review the following cases were attended:-

Civilian, Accident & Maternity Cases.

337

Military Cases.

3

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. Administered by the County Council.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. Administered by the County Council.

(e) HOSPITALS. No public or voluntary hospitals are situated in this district. An arrangement between the Council and the City of Worcester is in operation for the removal and treatment of cases of infectious disease.

Section C.

1. (1) WATER.

No new piped supplies, either public or private, were installed during the year.

At Clifton-on-Teme the Council's piped supply was extended in 1943 to serve a small prisoner-of-war camp and the additional consumption was met only with difficulty in 1944. The source of this supply, a spring, varies in volume with the seasons and is only just adequate for the needs of the village and prisoner-of-war camp during Autumn.

The analysis of this supply showed that the water was still of excellent quality.

The water supply in the area generally was tested for quality where considered necessary or where complaints had been received. These supplies are derived from wells and springs which are usually shallow and supplied from surface water and, as such, are open to suspicion at all times. 49% of the samples so taken were not passed as fit for drinking but this figure includes several samples taken from the Rushwick area; this is a built-up area where sewage disposal arrangements are very unsatisfactory and which derives its water from private wells which are becoming more polluted with the passing of time.

During the period June to December a shortage of water was reported in several Parishes and a scheme of water-carting had to be brought into operation. In all, some 13 Parishes were affected in varying degrees and approximately 100 houses had to be supplied at regular intervals. Whilst the position was somewhat serious at one period it was always under control and the information obtained as to affected areas has proved useful in drawing up the post-war scheme of water supply.

The particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains to those to which the supply is available in the two Parishes so served are, approximately, as follows:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Direct to Houses.</u>	<u>By Stand-pipes.</u>
Hallow.	1:3	Nil
Clifton.	1:3	1:3

(11) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensions to sewage disposal plants or to sewers were carried out during the year.

An attempt was made at Clifton-on-Teme to improve the method of sewage disposal; the method used is that of land irrigation but this is not entirely successful and it is hoped that a more up-to-date system may be installed as soon as may be practicable.

The Parish of Rushwick is still causing grave anxiety by the inadequacy of its sewage disposal arrangements which are causing discomfort and risk of disease to the occupants.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. No action taken.

3. (1) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

It has not been found possible to restart the scheme of collection of house refuse in the area which was in operation at the outbreak of war. A scheme of salvage collection is, however, in operation, and towards the end of the year, some Parishes were visited and a limited amount of house refuse was removed. This work is being supervised at the present time by the Salvage Officer.

(11) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A report by the Sanitary Inspectors is attached.

(111) SHOPS.

There are no large shops in the area and very few which employ assistants. The conditions found in the shops inspected were satisfactory.

(1V) SMOKE ABATEMENT. None.

(V) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. None in the area.

(VI) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No cases of infestation were notified during the year under review.

4. SCHOOLS. The sanitary arrangements to several schools were inspected and were found to be kept in as clean a condition as could be expected having regard to the systems provided. These systems are out-of-date in many instances and will have to be improved when the modernisation of the schools is carried out or when public services are installed.

The water supplies to one or two schools became inadequate during the period of drought, but, in all cases, adequate supplies were obtained from neighbouring premises. The question of providing school meals is closely linked with that of water supplies and, in some instances, it has not been possible to provide the former service owing to the inadequacy of the latter.

SCHOOL CLOSURES. No school was closed by my order during the year.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a). MILK SUPPLIES. As in previous years the supervision and sampling of Accredited and Tuberculin tested milk was carried out by the County Council; visits were made by the officers of this Council regarding the structural conditions of farms producing this type of milk and the buildings were found to be kept in a good state of repair and suitable for the production of these grades of milk.

An effort was made by the Sanitary Inspectors to inspect as many farms and dairies producing undesignated milk as their time would allow. Several applications for licences were made by farmers who produce only small quantities of milk and, owing to the general milk situation, efforts were made to register all producers whose methods were satisfactory even if the premises did not comply entirely with the regulations. These producers were visited at intervals to see that cleanliness in production was maintained.

- (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. No regular slaughtering of animals for human consumption was carried out in the area; inspections were made of pigs killed under licence for householders and where any disease was found the affected parts or carcasses were condemned for human consumption.

- (c) ADULTERATION etc. Administered by the County Council.

- (d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. This is carried out at the County Council Laboratory.

- (e). NUTRITION. No steps were taken for instruction.

Section F.

SCABIES. The experimental clinic opened in 1943 was continued and dealt with several cases, mostly with success, few immediate reinfections being reported. One or two severe cases had to be dealt with by institutional treatment. Advice and help on preventative measures in the house has proved beneficial in many cases and continues to be a part of the treatment.

Up to the 31st December, 1944, the following cases had been dealt with:-

	Male	Female	Total
Adults	10	19	29
Children			43
			<u>72</u>
Reinfected cases treated (1 male, 2 female & 4 children)			7
			<u>79</u>
		TOTAL	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

All the schools in the area were visited during the year for this purpose, and help was given by the teachers and District Nurses with publicity arrangements. As a result, 74 children under 5 years and 64 between 5 and 15 years were immunised, and it was estimated that 60% and 85% respectively of the two age groups had been immunised by the end of the year.

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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Diseases.	Under one year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths
1. Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever.	-	1	1	2	2	12	6	1	2	2	-	-	29	11	-
3. Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	-
4. Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	6	-	-
6. Pneumonia.	-	1	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	5
7. Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	-	-
8. Encephalitis) Lethargica)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles.	2	2	6	2	4	49	20	1	3	-	-	-	89	-	-
10. Whooping Cough	6	8	9	7	8	32	4	-	-	-	-	-	74	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1944.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	3	3	2	1	2	1	-	-
25	-	2	-	-	1	3	-	-
35	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	6	2	2	4	4	-	-

W. J. Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Great Witley,
Worcester.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

for the year ended December 31st, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

We have pleasure in laying before you our Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

In accordance with circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health we have only dealt briefly with subjects of current interest and have omitted the usual statistical details; records are being preserved so that, if required, a general report covering the war-time period can be made at a later date.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year, only 33 cases being notified to us, 29 being of scarlet fever, 2 of diphtheria, 1 of dysentery and 1 case of suspected typhoid fever. 15 of these cases were removed to isolation hospital for treatment.

In many cases terminal disinfection was carried out and, in addition, disinfection was carried out after deaths from tuberculosis.

HOUSING.

Provision of new houses by Private Enterprise.

No new dwellings were provided in this manner.

Housing Inspection.

Many inspections of working-class houses were carried out and, in addition, all complaints regarding unsatisfactory or defective accommodation were investigated, but the shortage of labour and materials prevented all but urgent repairs and additions being carried out. This shortage, especially of labour, was very acute in the area owing to the diversion of men and materials to agricultural work.

As the result of informal action improvements were carried out to 14 houses whilst, in 5 cases, premises which were unfit for habitation were vacated and closed.

Regular inspections were made of houses which were occupied under temporary licence and we have endeavoured to maintain these cottages in a reasonably habitable condition.

DRAINAGE.

The condition of the house drainage systems at Rushwick is still very unsatisfactory and is growing worse. Many complaints have been received during the year of overflowing cesspools and yards and gardens covered with sewage. Attempts have been made to alleviate this condition by the use of the Worcester City cesspool emptier but it has been increasingly difficult to hire this machine and to keep it in operation when it had been obtained.

The conditions caused by this nuisance are beyond description and, although we have made every effort in assisting the occupiers, we are unable to make any permanent improvement and can only emphasise again the urgent need for installing the proposed sewerage scheme.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Improvements and additions to drainage systems were carried out at 57 houses, 6 of these being completely new installations with septic tanks and filters.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As it appeared likely that water would be in short supply during the summer months, a scheme was evolved for this emergency and was brought into operation in June. A motor-lorry was hired and a 700 gallon tank borrowed from the Corporation of Worcester, who also supplied the water from their mains. The chief difficulty encountered was lack of storage accommodation at the affected houses, which necessitated frequent visits to them and greatly increased the cost of the service. No charge was made for water supplied to domestic premises, but that supplied for business purposes was charged at cost.

Over 50,000 gallons of water were distributed up to the end of the year, and we should like to record our appreciation of the help afforded to us by the City Engineer of Worcester and his staff, without which we should have been in serious difficulties.

The dried supply to Clifton-on-Teme caused some anxiety during the late summer and autumn as the spring providing the source of the supply decreased in volume reaching a very low point in October.

Difficulties were also experienced with the pumping plant, several breakdowns taking place which necessitated replacements and which caused the supply of water to be cut off for short periods. As there was no stand-by pump at the station, the Council decided to install a new pump and retain the old one for emergency use, and an order was placed for this machinery towards the end of the year.

During the year, 2,126,350 gallons of water were pumped, giving an average daily consumption of 5,809 gallons; water is supplied to a Prisoner-of-War camp in addition to the village.

43 samples of water from sources supplying domestic premises were taken for analysis and examination, of which 22 were passed for drinking purposes and 21 were found to be polluted. Advice was given on measures to be adopted to improve the quality of the polluted wells and in many cases improved results were obtained when further samples were taken.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLIES.

During the year the following licences for designated milk were issued by the County Council to producers in this District:-

Accredited - Producers 11
Producers with bottling licences - 3

Tuberculin Tested - Producers 3
Producers with bottling licences - 1

Inspections were made of premises where designated milk was produced and, with very few exceptions, a good standard of cleanliness and repair was found.

Inspections were also made of premises where undesignated milk was produced but the pressure of other work prevented us from supervising this production as closely as we should have wished.

HOP-PICKING.

The season was not an ideal one from the point-of-view of weather conditions and, owing to the drought, difficulties were experienced regarding the adequacy of water supplies. A general shortage of water was experienced and on 9 farms the supplies failed entirely; this position had been forecast and the Council had approved the use of measures designed to overcome the difficulty.

These measures consisted of the free supply of chlorinating and dechlorinating materials for use with water which could not normally have been used for human consumption; on the affected farms the source of such water was approved by us and the farmer shown how to treat it but daily tests were carried out to see that the chlorinating treatment had been applied effectively; the fact that, with the exception of one unconfirmed case of dysentery, there were no notifications of water-borne diseases proved, we think, that this method was justified in the exceptional circumstances.

The numbers of pickers who came into the District, as compiled by the Food Office, was 6,723 of which 850 were children under the age of 5 years. These children are the cause of a lot of trouble to the farmers, the nurses, and to us, as they remain round the barracks all day without proper supervision and cause damage and untidiness and, very often, burn or otherwise injure themselves.

The Ministry of Health did not send a representative this year to inspect the living quarters but a delegation from the National Union of Teachers visited several farms in this District. We were pleased to note the concern with which the delegation viewed the presence of so many children of school-age and under, and we are awaiting with expectancy their report and suggestions for overcoming this difficulty.

The condition of the quarters and the maintenance of cleanliness generally has slowly deteriorated during the war years, the lack of labour and materials preventing our taking any effective action in the matter but, with the return of normal times, we are of the opinion that we shall be able to effect considerable improvements which have been long overdue.

RODENT CONTROL.

With the issuing of the Infestation Order, 1943, by the Ministry of Food and the delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1912, by the County Council, the District Council became responsible for all rodent control work to non-agricultural lands in their area.

An Assistant Rodent Officer was appointed in September, 1944, to carry out this work under our direction and supervision and, after being trained, commenced his duties with a publicity campaign and a thorough survey of the District to locate the infested areas. The publicity campaign was not a success as the public did not respond by notifying the position of infestations; it is thought that this unresponsive attitude was due to the following causes:-

- (a) the neighbourly spirit which prevails in country districts and prevents complaints which might lead to investigations by an official,
- (b) that, where the work of disinfection was carried out by the Local Authority at the occupiers request or in default, a charge was made, and
- (c) the fear for the lives of domestic animals etc., as poison was used in the treatments.

However, the district was surveyed and treatments carried out where necessary and, up to the end of the year, 9 Parishes had been visited and 41 premises treated. In addition, the Sewage Disposal Works at Hallow were treated and the sewers pre-baited but, as these baits were untouched, no poisoning was carried out, it being thought that they were free from rats.

We are Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

FREDK. D. INSKIP,

A. L. PRATT.

Public Health Department,
36, The Tything,
Worcester.

